

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Putting Children First



In March I spoke at a news conference announcing a \$3.2 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to **Child FIRST**, a highly successful and innovative early childhood system of care. The grant will replicate the original Child FIRST program developed at Bridgeport Hospital in five other Connecticut communities, including New Haven, where it will operate in partnership with the **Clifford W. Beers Guidance Clinic**. The grant will be supplemented with additional funding from state and foundation sources.

Helping Babies Feel Clean, Dry and Cared For

My support for **The Diaper Bank** continues from the Capitol. It sounds simple: collect diapers and donations and distribute them to families that need but can’t always afford them. But the need is great and the logistics sometimes daunting. Clean, fresh diapers help babies happier and get them into the habit of feeling comfortable and cared for. They help prevent skin diseases and even hepatitis, and can reduce the chance of a crying baby becoming an abused baby. The Diaper Bank fills this vital daily need.



Helping Children Make Beautiful Music



Judy Sirota Rosenthal photo

Earlier this year I took part in a special event to benefit the Dr. Regina M. Lilly-Warner Scholarship Fund at the **Neighborhood Music School**. Our region is utterly blessed with a vibrant arts community—this program makes the Neighborhood Music School available to New Haven public school students. As a result, literally hundreds of them can discover and then explore their artistic talents and abilities. I believe it is important to help children, who might not otherwise have the chance, learn to appreciate and make music.

Aid For New Haven & West Haven

State funding for cities and towns impacts your property taxes. That’s why I fought hard to protect our local funding. This table shows the state grants and reimbursements for our district in Fiscal Year 2010–2011.

	Fiscal Year 10-11
Total Education Grants	\$191,082,222
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$915,545
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$8,078,304
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$2,440,923
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$42,498,531
Total State Funds to the 10th Senate District	\$245,015,525



With Pamela Allen (center) from Evergreen Family Oriented Tree, Inc—a New Haven organization that provides services to families and individuals in transition—and Amy Meek, Reentry Coordinator for the New Haven Mayor’s Office during “New Haven Day” at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.

Dear Neighbor,

Everywhere I go constituents tell me the same thing: they want state government to focus on growing jobs and balancing the budget. I got the message.

This session we worked with Governor Rell to pass a historic bipartisan jobs bill. The initiative helps businesses get access to the capital and credit that they need to thrive. We also made Connecticut an easier place to do business by cutting back on bureaucratic red tape and streamlining the regulatory process.

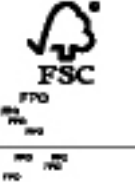
We tackled the budget deficit the same way. By working together, we balanced the budget without raising taxes or cutting municipal aid. Instead, we made significant cuts to state spending, maximized federal aid and reduced borrowing.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you as Connecticut continues on the road to recovery.

Sincerely,
Toni Harp
Toni Harp
State Senator

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State Senator
Toni Harp

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I’m proud to
represent the
citizens of
**New Haven
& West Haven**

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SUMMER 2010

HEALTH CARE

Helping Patients Get Answers

When health insurers deny your claim it's easy to feel confused and frustrated. Now, when health insurance companies deny coverage for procedures because they claim they're "not medically necessary" or "not a covered benefit" they must provide patients with contact information for the Office of the Healthcare Advocate where staff can help patients determine if they have been wrongfully denied coverage and take appropriate action.



Another Weapon in the Fight Against Breast Cancer

We all know someone who has been affected by breast cancer. Fortunately, proper diagnosis and treatment can make a real difference. That's why I helped the Senate pass a bill that would have provided women with another weapon in the fight against breast cancer. Health insurance companies would be required to cover the cost of MRIs when initial mammograms find dense breast tissue. Unfortunately, this bill was not enacted into law, but I will continue to advocate for this important coverage.

Protecting Children From Secondhand Smoke

There's little debate that secondhand smoke is extremely hazardous, especially for children. So it may surprise people that a loophole exists in state law that allows smoking in a daycare facility if the business is located in a private residence. The Senate passed a bill that would prohibit anyone from smoking in a daycare facility during customary business hours, no

matter where it is located. Unfortunately the bill did not become law, but I will remain vigilant when it comes to protecting children from the effects of cigarette smoke.



GROWING JOBS

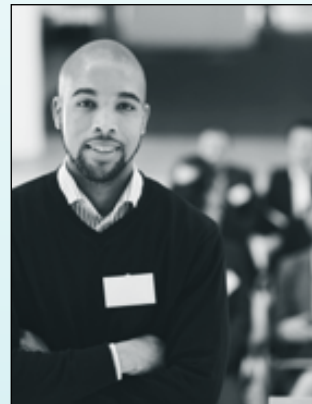
Landmark Jobs Bill

There was no greater priority this legislative session than helping Connecticut create high-quality jobs. We worked with Governor Rell to do just that. Provisions of the new law include:

- ▶ Loans for small businesses to help fund expansions and additional hires
- ▶ Sales-tax exemptions for machinery and fuel used in renewable energy industries
- ▶ Loan reimbursements and grants for education and careers in green technology and health information technology
- ▶ Tax credits for angel investments in bioscience, photonics, information technology and green businesses



One-Stop Shopping for Small Businesses



Many Connecticut residents work for small businesses. We need them to thrive in order to help Connecticut recover from this global recession. So this session the legislature passed a bill that requires the State Department of Economic and Community Development to provide a single contact point for small businesses seeking financial and technical help, to coordinate all state small business revolving loan funds and to create an informational Web page with small business resources.

Working Together to Balance the Budget

The 2010 legislative session began with the state facing a projected deficit of more than \$1.2 billion for the current two-year budget. Despite the daunting task of closing the deficit, we were able to work together in a bipartisan fashion with the governor to balance the budget. We did it without raising taxes or cutting municipal aid. Instead, we cut state spending by hundreds of millions of dollars, reduced borrowing and worked hard to maximize federal funding.



HELPFUL RESOURCES

RESOURCES FOR FORECLOSURE RELIEF

- ▶ **Free Advice on Foreclosure Prevention**
The Homeownership Preservation Foundation's Homeowner's HOPE Hotline provides free foreclosure-prevention advice from HUD-approved counselors. Speak to a counselor 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. **1-888-995-HOPE**

SAVE ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

- ▶ **Choose Your Electric Supplier**
The rate you pay for the generation portion of your electric bill may be lowered by ten percent. **1-888-922-3782** or **www.ctenergyinfo.com**
- ▶ **Weatherization Residential Assistance Partnership**
Helps income-eligible customers reduce their bills by making their homes more energy-efficient. **1-800-388-97**



CONSUMER PROTECTION

- ▶ **Making the "Do Not Call" List Stronger**
Current law allows the state to impose fines for violations of the "No Sales Solicitation Calls" statute under the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act, and legislation passed this year would allow the state to impose an additional \$11,000 fine. To register a telephone number, consumers may call the Federal Trade Commission at **1-888-382-1222** or the state Department of Consumer Protection at **1-800-842-2649**.

OTHER RESOURCES AND LINKS

Find more helpful resources for jobseekers, veterans, those facing foreclosure and more at **www.senatedems.ct.gov**.

EDUCATION

Helping Connecticut Students Race to the Top



The Obama Administration's Race to the Top program made \$4.3 billion available to states that reform public education. To meet that challenge, we approved a landmark education bill that uses technology to track students' academic growth, creates new teacher accountability standards

and provides options to fix failing schools. With these reforms Connecticut will have a better chance at securing Race to the Top funds, closing the achievement gap and ensuring that our graduates can compete in the global economy.